

[54] **TEST MEANS AND METHOD FOR  
DETECTING KETONE BODIES**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Test means, method of making a test device and process for detection of ketone bodies are disclosed. More particularly, suitable test means are of the type having a nitroprusside in combination with at least one inorganic salt of a metal selected from the group of magnesium and calcium. Optionally, at least one primary amine is combined therewith. The compositions are advantageously incorporated with a carrier, such as a matrix or tablet, to provide a test device. The metal salt stabilizes the nitroprusside in solution at alkaline pH, allowing for a single-dip production method, promotes ionization of ketone bodies, resulting in a shortened reaction time, and stabilizes the resulting chromophoric complex. The chromophoric complex is further stabilized by the primary amine.

**25 Claims, No Drawings**